

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Colombia

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The Communists in Colombia, strongly in favor of the Peace and Democracy congresses which are being held from time to time, are urging the creation of such a movement or organization in Colombia. The Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) recently issued a directive to its members which contains the following points:

1. At the time of the V National Communist Congress in July 1947, the Party believed that although world imperialism was not in a position to begin a new world war immediately, it was preparing for military aggression against the democratic peoples at a future date. Now, however, the situation has radically changed and the danger of a war is so great that it can be considered imminent. This is the result of the Atlantic Pact, which is the culmination of Yankee imperialist efforts to organize an aggressive military alliance against the Soviet Union. The Yankee imperialists have become more and more desperate as the effects of the approaching economic crisis become felt in the United States and other capitalist countries, while they see the successes achieved in the Soviet Union and the other people's democracies.
2. The imperialists are making military as well as political preparations for war, and have established army, navy and air bases in all the capitalistic countries. The political preparations include the indictment against the twelve leaders of the Communist Party in the United States, trials against French Communist leaders, the anti-Communist declaration of the Bogota Conference, and the outlawing of the Communist Parties in Chile, Brazil, and Peru. With the signing of the Atlantic Pact, war may begin at any moment. The governments of Latin America, through the signing of the pacts of Rio de Janeiro and Bogota, are obliged to aid the Yankees. In Colombia there is a U. S. military mission which has imposed standardization of arms and even uniforms; the United States holds military bases throughout the country and is building secret air bases; on the pretext of studying the Atrato Canal project, preparations are being made for U. S. military occupation of the Department of the Choco; and Cartagena has been visited by five thousand Yankee sailors as a prelude to what will come in the future.
3. Despite all these preparations by the imperialists, war can be averted if the Communists are able to mobilize those who wish peace. The question of fighting for peace must occupy the most prominent place in the Communist program, which must be carried to the masses. The fight for peace must be closely linked with

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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the struggle to recover the rights of the people, against the high cost of living, for better wages and for national independence from the imperialist yoke.

- i. The fight for peace will have to be carried out through the efforts of all democratic groups. The Communists should, therefore, concentrate on working among the following:
 - a. Labor unions, farm and Indian leagues, associations of small merchants, all of whom must cooperate actively in the struggle to avert a war.
 - b. Women's organizations, which will play an important role in the fight against war.
 - c. Working youth, and especially the youth of the proletariat, which must be organized.
 - d. Students, teachers, democratic intellectuals, professional people, and artists.
- ii. The immediate tasks of the Communists in the fight for peace then include the following:
 - a. To organize pro-peace committees in the municipalities, barrios, universities, schools, factories.
 - b. To support the creation of a national committee to organize a Colombian pro-peace congress, as well as similar committees in the departments.
 - c. Work for the participation by all groups opposed to war in the world and continental pro-peace congresses.

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